



The Courier

The Geneva School Parent Newsletter

December 2002

A New Home in Sight

By Bob Ingram, Chairman of the Board

Could a new home for The Geneva School be as close as next August 1?

It's beginning to look that way.

We all know in real estate dealings nothing is certain until the ink is dry, but it appears more and more likely that the unoccupied Sports Recreation building (previously Jumbo Sports and Sports Unlimited) near the corner of Aloma on SR 436 could be the next home for Geneva. For several weeks now the Board has had the 3.8-acre property and 40,000 square foot building under contract.

It is a completely open shell making it conducive to renovation for our specific needs over the next three to five years. As we walked through the building one evening before voting to proceed with the contract, Dayle Seneff and Dan Pugh commented that they remembered shopping in the store a couple of years ago. "Apparently you didn't buy enough" was the rejoinder as we all considered how this building and location would work for our new home.

Since putting the property under contract, we have retained the services of a civil engineering firm to proceed with the due diligence on the property and also to produce the exterior renderings necessary for the city of Casselberry's planning and



zoning commission. We have also resurrected our previous architectural plans for the interior build-out from several years ago when we had designed a four-phased site plan for Geneva's future campus home. Our architects, Schenkel-Schultz, are some of the very best designers of schools in the southeast, and they have built many of the public school facilities in central Florida. The building will afford us enough space for a regulation-sized gymnasium, approximately 30 classrooms, administration offices and specialty rooms for art, music, science, and a library/media center. The entire K-12 student body will be able to be housed in one building, and the growth potential is a doubling of our current size up to about 425 students. Geneva will have a highly visible home!

VISION

The Geneva School seeks to instill in it's students

An enduring love of learning
A commitment to serve others
A dedication to the pursuit of truth, goodness, and beauty

Forged from historical Christianity

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Grammar School Campus**
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407-332-1664 (Fax)
FeedBack@GenevaSchool.org

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As you can tell from the artistic renderings, the front parking lot will be removed and a very large green space will be created in its place. A playground, appropriately fenced for kindergarten through second grade, is also planned for the outside area adjacent to the end of the building where these younger students will have their classrooms.

The timetable calls for us to be approved by the Casselberry planning and zoning board in mid-December, the closing on the property is set for mid-January, and the renovation should begin in March. The goal of completion and occupancy by August 1 is very tight, but we believe it is possible and are proceeding with this timetable. Mike Calhoun (one of our parents) has been extremely instrumental in the planning and development of this project, and Jim Seneff, chairman of the Board's Building Committee, has directed and coordinated the efforts of all those involved.

One essential part of the timetable is the capital campaign and fund-raising. A strategic plan has been drafted and approved, and the first elements of the campaign have begun. It is exciting to report that those who have been asked to help raise the money necessary to purchase the building have indicated favorable and generous responses. The specific details of the campaign will be provided to the Geneva community of par-

ents and friends within the next week in our annual year-end letter. Please take the time to read this letter when it arrives and consider how you might participate in the capital campaign.

ADVANCEMENT OF THE VISION

1. A Place to call Home
2. Growth Potential
400 students
3-5 year growth needs
3. Expand Programming
Science Laboratories
Gymnasium
Enhanced Fine Arts Program
4. Combined Campus
5. High Visibility
6. Building of Equity for Future Expansion
7. Strengthen Geneva's Financial Base

In the near future we hope to have the opportunity to host a "walk-through" of the property, and we look forward to communicating with you on a regular basis, apprising you of the details and progress of this exciting new venture.

Projects of this magnitude and significance drive us to prayer. Even with the finest business expertise and professionalism behind the project, it is always insufficient to walk solely by sight. Faith in the enduring goodness of God toward Geneva must be cultivated and expressed. Faith in Jesus, our Savior, must permeate

our plans and purposes. Join with the others of the Geneva community as we pray for clear leading in each step of the process. Our resolve should be that of Moses, who determined that if God did not lead Israel by His presence through the wilderness into the Promised Land, then Moses would not go either (Ex. 33:12ff). So is our resolve in this campaign. We earnestly desire to experience God's presence, blessing, and confirmation as we continue to walk by faith into this very exciting future.

Second Annual Chili Cook-off



The Winners: Cathryn Ritchie won the "Best Tasting Chili," and Martha Tate won the "Hottest Chili."



The Geneva School's Christmas Celebration

"Darkness to Light"

Thursday, December 12

7:00 pm

Northland Community Church Sanctuary

Come see students and some of our faculty members as they portray the Light of Christmas.

Listen to hymns and songs, including Michael W. Smith's "All is Well" medley. Hear as Scripture is read in traditional and dramatic forms. Join in singing some favorite Christmas carols.

Be reminded that Christ is our Light



Of Saints and Dragons...

By Jeb Beates (Senior)

There were soaking wet kindergarteners who had bobbed for apples, flour-covered sixth-graders who had searched for M&M's, and juniors leading little third-graders among the festivities, cheering them on as they competed for candy. This incredible scene could have occurred only at one place... the All Saints' Day Festival held at the Grammar School campus on November 1.

The day was still young when classes dismissed early at the Dialectic and Rhetoric campus. Seniors, juniors, and teachers loaded up their cars and caravanned down 17-92 to the Grammar School. They arrived to find their old home deserted, as the young inhabitants of the Ridge Road campus were still in chapel. When chapel was dismissed and the Grammar students arrived back in their classrooms, they found the Dialectic and Rhetoric students awaiting them.

After playing a few games (like silent ball with the fifth-grade) and learning many new names, everyone headed down to the cafeteria to receive their lunch. The chow was hot and was authentic Renaissance cuisine. Chicken legs, bread loaves, and fruit were among the victuals that satiated the palates of all. With a booming voice and his bell tolling, Mr. King, disguised as the town crier, announced that the real fun was to begin.

Outside on the playground, students could try their hand at knocking coconuts off of wooden blocks with baseballs, or search for the buried riches on Treasure Island, or even estimate the amount of jellybeans in a jar! If one succeeded at

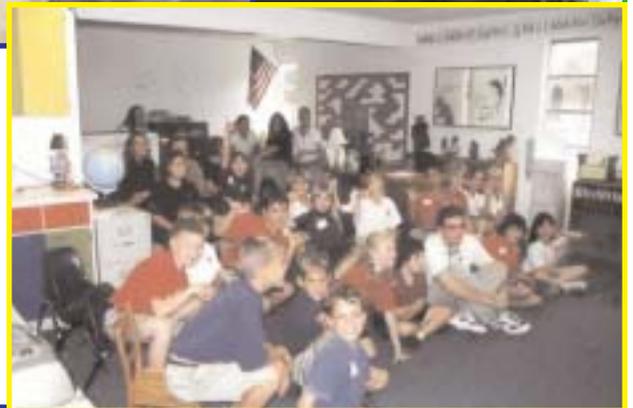


these events, one's reward might include candy, popcorn, or even a coconut!

Inside the school (or was it a castle for the day?) students busily worked at art projects with Mrs. Wayne. Some took in a performance of Macbeth, which was put on by Mrs. King's ninth-grade English class. Alex Cloke performed as Macbeth while J.T. Fridsma played his foe, Macduff, and Mrs. King stole the show, playing a terrifying witch. Other students watched Rhetoric students act out the lives of several saints. A nasty dragon (Brent Titcomb) was defeated by the valiant St. George (Jon Shafe), and the story of St. Patrick (John Ritchie) was told with real Irish flavor as Jeb Beates used an Irish accent to tell the tale, and shamrock cookies were given out to the students watching. Rumor has it that two mischievous Vikings made off with several of the cookies.

The exciting day came to a close with a tug-of-war match between the senior class and several faculty members. After seeing that the faculty was a much weaker side, and not wanting to cause any embarrassment in front of their students, the seniors decided to let the teachers win (always a smart move)!

The All Saints' Day Festival was a huge success and everyone had a great time! The day is a special tradition in Geneva's short history and leaves a lasting impression on all the students. However, it seems to me that if you asked a second-grader for his opinion on saints and dragons, he'd take the coconut shy every time!



ACYS GRAMMAR SCHOOL SOCCER

Written with input from Peter O'Toole, Harry Santamaria, Jeff Paglialonga and Ann Deuchler

This fall Geneva had four teams compete in the ACYS (Association of Christian Youth Sports) soccer league. Students from kindergarten all the way through sixth grade participated.

The U8 team (kindergarten - second grade) coached by **Peter** and **Donna O'Toole** had a great first season. This was the first time Geneva had sported a team for that age group, and for many of them it was the first time they had played competitive soccer. Donna and Peter were very encouraged to see the enthusiasm the children showed toward the game - winning or losing. The improvement in their skill level as the season progressed was great to see, and we are all anticipating great things in the years to come.

Geneva's U8 Team



Rachel and Jacob Polfer, Josh Paglialonga and Carmi Thompson not shown in picture

There were eleven players on the team: **Daniel Downward** (Goalkeeper): Danny was a great goalie and could punt the ball way down the field. **Michael Carelli** (Defence/Midfield): Michael improved so much and made some great defensive plays. He always had a prayer to say before kick off. **Lily Cloke** (Defence/Midfield): Lily had a great season - she made a lot happen in defense stopping the ball going in the goal. **Trip Tressler** (Defence/Midfield): Trip developed great skills in covering his man and clearing the ball to the offense. **Carmi Thompson** (Defence/Midfield): Carmi has a strong leg and a great attitude - "It doesn't matter if we win, we are having fun." **Jacob Polfer** (Midfield): Jacob is a strong player and a great dribbler. **Rachel Polfer** (Midfield): Rachel (a kindergartner) always came through on game days. She is a very fast player who can dribble the ball. **Tyler Anderson** (Midfield): Tyler scored one goal this season. He is a strong player and good at clearing the ball.

Nicholas Pitre (Midfield/Offense): Nicholas had a great season. He has the ability to dribble the ball and take it all the way! He scored one goal in the season. **Joshua Paglialonga** (Midfield/Offense): Josh is a very tenacious player with great foot skills and the speed to match. He scored two goals in the season. **Connor O'Toole** (Midfield/Offense): Connor (a kindergartner) showed great tenacity and had some good breakaways.

Also this fall Geneva introduced their first all-girls U10 (third and fourth grade) soccer team coached by **Harry Santamaria** and **Mac Weathers** - and what a fantastic season it was! With only a few of the girls having played together and several first year players, the girls went to work. Having practiced together for only two weeks, the Lady Knights began their regular season. They managed to win their second game against the seasoned Master's Academy. The girls continued their hard work and were able to win two more games during the season. This was quite an accomplishment considering that most teams in the league had been playing together for a few years, whereas the Lady Knights had played together for only a few weeks.

No matter whether they were winning or losing, the Lady Knights soccer team conducted themselves as ladies who reflected the character of Christ. They were a true team who selflessly taught, encouraged, and supported one another. Each and every member contributed uniquely to the overall character of the team that represented The Geneva School in an outstanding manner.

At the end of the season, the Lady Knights secured a

Geneva's U10 Girls Team



Carrie Michel not shown in picture

fourth place standing which qualified them for the season tournament. On game day, facing the number-one team in the league (Covenant Christian), the girls stepped on to the field ready to play. In the third quarter, Samie Carroll smashed one past the goalkeeper to put the girls within one goal. Covenant Christian started to sweat bullets at this point because they never expected a first year team to pose a serious threat! Even though the game ended in a loss, the season was a victory for the girls and their accomplishments. They deserve recognition for a job well done.

The team members were **Anna Burks, Samie Carroll, Sarah Edwards, Sarah Jane McKay, Carrie Michel** (non-Geneva student), **Victoria Robinson, Jennifer Rupert, Melanie Santamaria, Aleah Schweizer** (non-Geneva student), **Krissy Smith, Natalie Wayne, and Taylor Weathers.**

After barely making the playoffs last season with a 4-3 record, Geneva's U10 (third and fourth grade) boys team, coached by **Jeff Paglialonga** and **Ed LeMasters**, was undefeated in all their regular season games. Although the final tournament game was lost 2 - 1 to Kingdom Kids in one of the toughest matches seen by either team, the boys came second in the league and are a tribute to good sportsmanship and teamwork. Geneva's one goal that game was a head shot by Clay LeMasters, which also happened to be the only score off someone's head in the entire season.

Dante Bichette was our champion goalie for most of the games, letting only eleven goals into the net during the season. Without his tenacious goal keeping skills, the successful season would not have been possible. The offense was anchored by **Clay LeMasters, Timmy Burtrum, Tanner Stanley, Jake Paglialonga** and **Kyle Shepard** with goals evenly distributed among these top scorers. These players

Geneva's U10 Boys Team



Timmy Burtrum and Jeff Paglialonga not shown in picture

put away 44 out of the 46 goals scored by the entire team. The defensive wall consisted of **Taylor Bingham, Alex Boyd, Rand Deuchler, Stephen Cavalli, and Thomas Saunders.** The defenders saved the day in more than one game by allowing only nine goals in seven regular season games. This great team led the league in the lowest number of goals scored against them.

Geneva's U12 Boys Team



Orman Kimbrough and Kellie Bolton not shown in picture

Geneva's U12 (fifth and sixth grade) team coached by **Keith Case**, a first year student at RTS, came from behind to finish third in their division. The eleven-member team was a trophy of endurance not being able to have any substitutes in any game. They played with unusual fortitude and courage against teams who had many on the benches and sometimes guys twice their size. Over the course of the season, their skill developed and team plays improved tremendously. The offensive players scored goals in every game, and the defense hung tough against players who had worked together for many seasons. Hats off to the fifth and sixth grade team for a great season.

The team members were: **Kellie Bolton, Kyle Burks, Stevie Candeto, Philip Deuchler, Kit Fisher, Kelsi Gumport, Orman Kimbrough, Bennett Robinson, Jono Seneff, Zac Schutz, and Jonathan Spillman.**

We are very proud of all our young soccer players. Keep up the good work and practice hard.

ARE YOU READY FOR THE SPRING SEASON?

Geneva Parents Association

TO ENRICH THE LIFE OF THE GENEVA SCHOOL THROUGH PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

by Gordon Cloke - GPA President

A Call to Parents

At our most recent GPA meeting, Father Michael Eatmon (currently teaching philosophy and apologetics at the Dialectic and Rhetoric campus) gave a remarkable presentation on the classical model of education and, in particular, the value of the Rhetoric phase, which he described as the crowning glory of the trivium. With winsome eloquence and wit, he spelled out the distinctive elements that permeate and unite the curriculum, and the dangers that attend the truncation of a so-called classical education at the dialectic phase. It was an inspiring presentation of the vision that invigorates so many of us, and for which we still have much work to do in order to realize fully at The Geneva School.

Parents are a central part of this work. Our role goes far beyond writing a check each month. We are called, first, to take and maintain ownership of the education of our children, not abdicating that responsibility to any institution, but participating fully in partnership with the School to do what we believe is a holy work - to provide an extraordinary education to our own children, to graduate successive classes of thoughtful and mature Christians, and, through their lives to progressively transform society. We are called also to study and understand the model, so that we can not only assist our own children effectively but also articulate to those outside the School what we believe makes The Geneva School unique. We are called to the same civility and grace that we pray will characterize the atmosphere at each campus. We are called to pray, pray, pray without ceasing that the Lord would allow us to join the work that He is doing in the lives of our children through this school,

that He would prosper The Geneva School and thereby accomplish His sovereign purpose in and through this community.

At times we may feel that many difficulties beset the School, that we are very far from fully realizing the vision. Let me encourage you with a familiar word of scripture, that I think we may apply not only to our own Christian walk but to our shared journey as parents, students, faculty, administration and board of The Geneva School:

Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. [Philippians 3:13-14, NASB]

The Geneva School is already a treasure and a blessing. Let us work together toward the great prize that Mister Eatmon so ably communicated that evening.

Our next GPA meeting is on Monday, December 9, at the Grammar School campus. Athletic Director Dan Harger and John Maynard, chair of the Sports Committee, will be presenting another important component of school life - the sports program. We may also manage to provide some Christmas goodies as an extra enticement. We would love to see you.

Gordon Cloke

President, Geneva Parents Association, 2002-2003

Nota Bene

- December 9:** GPA Meeting - 7:00 p.m. Grammar School Campus
- December 12:** Christmas Celebration at Northland - 7:00 p.m.
- December 18:** Noon Dismissal for 7 - 12 Grade
- December 19:** Semester Exams for 7 - 12 Grade. Noon Dismissal for 7 - 12 grade
- December 20:** Semester Exams for 7 - 12 Grade
Noon Dismissal for all Students
School Dance for 9 - 12 Grade Students
7:30 p.m. at the Winter Park Womens Club
- December 21 - January 5:** Christmas Break
- January 6:** Spring Semester Begins

Announcements

Moms in Touch: Moms from both campuses meet every Monday at 8:30 a.m. for an hour to pray for The Geneva School - students, parents, teachers, staff and board. Come as you are and join us in the Library at the Grammar School campus.

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to all the families who participated in Operation Christmas Child. We collected 98 boxes that will be sent to needy children all around the world.